

VZCZCXRO0009
RR RUEHIK RUEHYG
DE RUEHRO #0651 0891143
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 301143Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7560
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0280
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0304
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0352
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0030
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0249
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 4295
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2284
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 8513
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 2433
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 0387
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 2851

UNCLAS ROME 000651

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SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [MCAP](#) [MOPS](#) [EAID](#) [PTER](#) [NATO](#) [UN](#) [AF](#) [AL](#) [LN](#) [SU](#) [SO](#)

BK, CG, IS, IT

SUBJECT: FUNDING DECREE FOR ITALIAN MILITARY MISSIONS
ABROAD: PARTICIPATION IN HUMANITARIAN AND INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY MISSIONS

¶1. March 27, the Italian Senate approved a government decree authorizing calendar year expenditures for "Italian Participation in Humanitarian and International Missions," all of Italy's military missions abroad. The full Italian language text of the decree and a detailed English summary are available on Embassy Rome's classified website (<http://www.state.sgov.p/eur/rome/index.cf m>). Some highlights and clarifications are included below.

¶2. The decree authorizes slightly more than 1 billion Euros for the Italian participation in international missions in calendar year 2007. In most cases, unspent funds can be rolled over into 2008.

-The decree covers development assistance programs in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan and Somalia; Humanitarian, stabilization and reconstruction programs in Iraq (including NTM-I), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, as well as Italy's participation in ESDP initiatives.

-The decree authorizes funds for Italy's military and police missions abroad: UNIFIL, ISAF, Active Endeavor, Knights of Malta, MSU in Kosovo, Joint Enterprise in the Balkans, Albania, Albania 2, ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina, TIPH 2, EUBAM Rafah, Darfur, EUPOL Kinshasa, UNFICYP, Albania, UNMIK, EUPM and EUPOL COPPS.

-The decree allocates 40 million Euros of new money for Afghan reconstruction. However, since the MFA has yet to disburse its 607 million Euros in 2007 development assistance budget passed by Parliament as part of the general budget in December, it is still unclear how much Italy's 2007 total assistance to Afghanistan will have increased in respect to previous years.

-The decree provides some guidance on personnel and judicial issues relevant to the missions.

-The decree includes 500,000 Euros for a proposed International Peace Conference on Afghanistan.

-In article 2, the reference to the authorization of 2.8 million Euros for Italy's participation in NATO Trust Funds

includes 1 million Euros for the NTM-I Trust Fund.

-In article 2, the 10.4 million Euros to extend military personnel in Iraq includes funds to cover Italian military personnel and related "life-support" costs involved in NTM-I, including a proposed additional Carabinieri component.

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